Albert Speer

Albert Speer was born in Mannheim, Germany on March 19, 1905. In the early years of his life he became educated in architecture at the Institute of Technology Karlsruhe and later at the Universities of Munich and Berlin. In January of 1931, Speer joined the Nazi Party and became the personal architect of Adolf Hitler. Speer served Hitler with respect, devotion, loyalty and efficiency. Speer designed many parade grounds, searchlights, and banners of the Nuremberg Party Congress in 1934; because of this he was awarded many commissions and awards. Soon Albert Speer became Inspector General of the Reich and was one of the most reliable members of the Nazi regime. In 1942, after Fritz Todt was killed, Speer became the new Minister of Armaments. He later took on the grander title of Minister of Armaments and War Production. In 1943 Speer took over Hermann Goering’s responsibilities as planner of the German War Economy. After this he inherited Organization Todt, an organization using forced labor to construct roads and defenses. In 1944, economic production reached its peak under the direction of Albert Speer. In 1946, Albert was tried and found guilty against war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was sent to the Spandau Prison where he spent 20 years there. When Speer was released in 1966, he started writing memoirs. His first in 1970 was called Inside the Third Reich, and his second in 1976 called Spandau, The Secret Diaries. On September 1, 1981 Albert Speer died of cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 76.

Albert Speer was an important person in the Holocaust. Even though he did not play a major role, he was still involved in important events. Speer was not as “evil” as I thought he was going to be. In fact later on in his life he said that he wished he hadn’t been involved in the whole Holocaust thing at all. All in all, Albert Speer wasn’t really a bad guy, but just a guy who made some wrong decisions.